



<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

Applicant: Joan Fallon

Examiner: Zachariah Lucas

Serial No: 09/990,909

Group Art Unit: 1648

Filed: November 16, 2001

Docket: 8016-5

For: MET

METHODS FOR DIAGNOSING PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENT

DISORDERS, DYSAUTONOMIA, AND OTHER NEUROLOGICAL

CONDITIONS

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA. 22313

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2003, Applicant provisionally elects the claims of Group I (A) (claims 1, 2, 7 and 21), with traverse.

As set forth in MPEP § 803, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner <u>must</u> examine it on the merits, even though the application contains claims to independent and distinct inventions.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any document referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage paid in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box. 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 23, 2003

Dated: 5/23/03

Frank V. DeRosa

While the inventions of Group I, II and III may be distinct for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that simultaneous examination will not present a serious burden. Indeed, Examiner even acknowledges that all three groups are classified in the same class (435) and subclass (5). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no burden on Examiner to simultaneously examination claims of Groups I, II and II. Under such circumstances, it is respectfully requested that Examiner maintain all claims in the same application.

At the very minimum, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner maintain all claims related to Group I, i.e., inventions (A), (B) and (C). Indeed, even assuming the inventions of subgroups A, B and C are distinct, again Examiner's search with respect to the claimed inventions will be conducted in the same class and subclass for PDDs such as Autism, ADD and ADHD. Therefore, no there will be no burden on Examiner for simultaneous examination of subgroups A, B and C of Group I.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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